



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Portland District

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2006

Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter

A newsletter keeping you informed about upcoming meetings and providing updates as the Corps continues Celilo Village redevelopment.

Celilo Falls long served as a trade center, sacred fishing ground and gathering place for the Northwest Indian tribes. When The Dalles Dam was constructed, the falls were flooded. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided a new location near the original falls, where about 50 people live in Celilo Village. Inadequate maintenance, as well as sanitary and water systems, caused public health and safety concerns to village residents.

To resolve these problems, the Tribes requested the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to rebuild the village under the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites Project. Congress authorized the reconstruction of the village in March 2004, and the Corps expects construction to be completed by 2009.

Redevelopment Update

In mid-September, construction crews and equipment will arrive at Celilo and begin working in the area east of the existing sewage lagoons. The Corps expects to award a contract this month to Colville Tribal Services to put in the new sewage lagoons, water system, and temporary housing. This phase of the work should take about 12 months. The Corps and contractors will let residents know when and where work will occur.

Residents ask agency staffs, contractors, and board members questions about the redevelopment at Wy-Am Board meetings. In the box at right we've listed some of the items on their minds at the August meeting.



Delilah Heemsah, (left) a Wy-Am Board member and resident, talks with Dwight Gray, Cooper Zietz project manager, about the upcoming site work.

- Designers will incorporate traffic controls into road design to slow traffic on the village roads.
- There should only be a few hours (if any) down time in the water and electrical systems. If there is any, it may be when contractors switch from the old water system to the new one. Residents will be notified in advance of any possible disruptions.
- The street in the temporary housing area ends in a cul-de-sac, wide enough to allow school buses to turn without needing to back up.
- Each temporary housing unit will have a lockable storage container and a parking pad in front for one or two vehicles.
- The temporary housing area will have street lights.
- The estimated time for moving residents to the temporary housing area will be October through December 2007. The Corps will have future meetings with residents to give detailed information and answer questions.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Department of Interior staffs toured Celilo Village after the August board meeting. The tour was to discuss acquisition and relocation plans onsite.

Comments sought on Phase II

The review period for the 60 percent design document closes Sept. 14. Corps Project Manager George Miller said the house locations on the west end of the site plan may be changed slightly to accommodate site constraints. The design drawings may be reviewed at Celilo Longhouse. If you would like to submit comments, send them to:

US Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: Gail Lovell
Civil and Environmental Design Section
PO Box 2946
Portland, OR 97208-2946

Confluence Project



Celilo Park is one of the seven sites selected by the Confluence Project for its art installations.

Wy-Am Board chairman Antone Minthorn also chairs the Confluence Project board. Seven years ago he began thinking about how the tribes could provide their voice in the Lewis and Clark bicentennial and was a key person in forming project. Earlier this year, the first artwork was completed at Cape Disappointment State Park near the mouth of the Columbia River.

Celilo Park is one of the seven sites chosen. Jacobsen said Lin feels the art at Celilo must address the loss of a way of life, but it also needs to say ‘we are still here and we’re going to remain here.’ Jacobsen said before that Lin begins designing she plans to meet with area tribal members, possibly in March 2007, to coincide with a ceremony planned to commemorate 50 years since the Dalles Dam gates first closed.

Jane Jacobsen, executive director of the Confluence Project and Janet Gallimore, director of education and community engagement, gave a presentation at the August Wy-Am Board meeting about the Project and how it involves Celilo Village.

The Confluence Project is a series of seven art installations along the Columbia River created to evoke the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the tremendous changes it brought to the Pacific Northwest. Artist Maya Lin was selected to design the interpretive pieces.



Antone Minthorn (left) and artist Maya Lin meet to discuss the planned artwork for Chief Timothy Park in April 2005.

Planning Association Presentation

Jim Beard, Antone Minthorn and George Miller will give a presentation to the American Planning Association this October about Celilo Village redevelopment at the Washington State Chapter meeting in Yakima.

Next Wy-Am Board meeting

Thursday, September 28, 2006, 10 a.m.

Celilo Village Longhouse, Elders Dining Hall

- Redevelopment updates
- Village governance and economy
- How relocation program will work

The Wy-Am Board invites Celilo Village residents to attend meetings, participate in the process and provide comments.

Wyam Board Members

Celilo Village: Delilah Heemsah and Bobby Begay

CTUIR: Antone Minthorn and Leo Stuart

CTWS: Ron Suppah and Reuben Henry

YIN: Leo Aleck

Cultural Resource Testing Begins

In mid-August, GeoVisions Environmental Services began archaeological field investigations at Celilo. GeoVisions will be taking samples in the project area checking for any cultural deposits.

The Umatilla, Warm Springs, Yakama and Nez Perce tribal historic preservation offices and/or cultural program managers were consulted in developing the testing plans. That was a critical step before starting work.

The Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter is published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, to keep residents and other interested members of the public informed of the Celilo Village redevelopment.

For more information about this project, please contact George Miller at (503) 808-4704 or email george.j.miller@usace.army.mil.

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